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July 20, 2015

Historic Landmarks Commission
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767
Via Email

Re: Ada and Luther Simond House

Dear Historic Landmark Commission members,

The Board of Directors of Preservation Austin is thrilled to have the opportunity to express our support for the landmark designation (H zoning) of the Ada and Luther Simond House. Not only is this home a unique example in Austin of 20th Century Norman-Tudor Revival style architecture, it was the home of Ada Deblanc Yerwood Simond for 50 years. Ada Simond was an important figure in public health at the state level, working as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association. After retiring she continued to have an impact on the Austin community as an activist, writer and educator on African-American history. She wrote series of children's books based on her own experiences as a child and a column for the Austin American Statesman titled "Looking Back", highlighting Austin's lesser known black residents. She was one of the founders of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society and the recipient of numerous awards from local and state level entities. Her beloved husband Luther Simond was a well-respected elementary school principal, and her son Gerald Askey was an Academy Award winning music arranger, composer and producer.

The current owners of the home are seeking landmark designation to provide long-term protection of the home and to honor the memory of Ada and Luther Simond for future generations.

We respectfully request the Historic Landmark Commission recommend landmark designation recommend H zoning for the Ada and Luther Simond House.

Very sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson